

Community Facilities & Services

This chapter examines public facilities and services that are provided by the Town of Enfield because they are essential to the quality of life of residents. The facilities and services discussed relate to law enforcement, fire and emergency services, hospitals and medical centers, public schools, institutions of higher education, public libraries and social services. Understanding differences between agency operations and the regulations to which each entity is subject will help citizens and community leaders make better land use, capital improvement and funding decisions. Being aware of how growth and infrastructure affect the effectiveness and efficiency of these services is also helpful, particularly in identifying opportunities for collaboration.

Public Services Policies, Plans & Studies

Regional Study

Connecticut Metropatterns

Connecticut Metropatterns is a study about urban growth in the State of Connecticut. The study focuses on the relationship between land use and taxation, and describes the impact of the state's heavy reliance on "fiscal zoning." The study explains that the cost of public services typically is greater where the population is small or shrinking, or where the population is spread out over the land. To cover the cost of providing public services, the government taxes real property based on the value of the property. To ensure equity among taxpayers, lawmakers typically assign different tax rates based on the amount of services consumed by different land uses. The study argues that this relationship between land uses and taxes has led communities to base land use decisions on "the amount of net tax revenue that can be generated from a parcel" instead of on "the overall suitability of the land and the long-term needs of the town and region."⁷⁶ The study urges municipalities such as the Town of Enfield to resist the urge to make land use decisions based solely on increases in tax revenue, and opt instead for land use decisions that result in functional development patterns that promote efficient use of the land, good traffic circulation patterns, and environmental, social and individual health and safety.

Local Plan

1999 Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development

The 1999 POCD expressed the Town's commitment to providing well-located and quality community facilities for public education, public safety, emergency services, street maintenance, storm and sanitary sewage, and waste management. The Plan did not indicate that there were any pressing issues or deficiencies in any of those public services. Citizen satisfaction with public services was high, particularly with Police, Fire and Public Library services, according to a survey conducted during the 1998 planning process. However, many of the concerns raised by

⁷⁶ Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005-2010. Pg. 11

town residents were management issues that were unrelated to land use planning; and therefore, were out of the scope of the Plan.

Two of the Plan's objectives that continue to be relevant today were working with private utilities to ensure adequate water supplies, and improving the quality of the Public Library for business, educational and recreational use. Among the recommendations to meet the Town's public services goal were: continuing to provide those public services; monitoring demographic trends to ensure that services are meeting the needs of the population; and making capital reinvestments. The Plan also recommended amending Town regulations to accommodate future growth, but there was no specific guidance defining the level of service that should be provided to accommodate future growth.

Inventory of Community Facilities

Public Safety

Firefighting

There are 5 fire departments in the Town of Enfield. All are combination fire departments (combination of paid and volunteer staff), except for the Thompsonville Fire District, which is a career fire department (full-time paid staff). There was no information online regarding ISO ratings for any district.

- **Enfield Fire District #1** – has two stations, one at 200 Phoenix Ave., the other at 199 Weymouth Rd. Staff: 12 officers, 3 engineers, 23 firefighters, 2 administrative personnel, 9 commissioners. Equipment: 5 engines, 1 fire truck, 1 rescue vehicle, 1 brush vehicle, 1 hover for water and ice rescue, 4 officer vehicles, 1 maintenance vehicle
- **Hazardville Fire District #3** - 385 Hazard Ave. Staff: 3 officers (including 2 fire inspectors), 3 engineers, 21 firefighters, 2 support personnel, 3 commissioners. Equipment: 1 truck, 2 engines, 1 TAC
- **North Thompsonville Fire District #4** - 439 Enfield St. Staff: 13 officers, 4 engineers (plus 2 vacancies), 29 firefighters (plus 3 vacancies), 5 commissioners. Equipment: 3 engines, 1 truck, 1 rescue vehicle, 2 officer vehicles. The District handled 458 incidents in 2008, including 105 service calls and 68 mutual aid calls. The number of incidents in 2008 increased by 87 since 2007.⁷⁷
- **Thompsonville Fire District #2** - 11 Pearl St. Staff: 4 officers, 15 firefighters (plus 1 vacancy). Equipment: 2 engines, 1 truck, 3 officer vehicles. The Thompsonville Fire District's station has a number of FEMA, NFPA, OSHA, Homeland Security and Building Code compliance issues that are forcing the District to seek a new building in another location. Current problems include insufficient space for modern equipment, traffic conflicts, moisture and flooding, and structural failures.⁷⁸
- **Shaker Pines Fire District #5** - 37 Bacon Rd. Staff: 6 officers, 4 engineers (including a fire inspector), 12 firefighters, 5 commissioners. Equipment: 4 engines, 1 utility vehicle, 1 service vehicle, 1 rescue boat⁷⁹

⁷⁷ Fire Chief/Fire Marshal's Report. Annual Report of the Board of Fire Commissioners. North Thompsonville. 2008.

⁷⁸ Pacheco Ross Architects, P.C. Thompsonville Fire Station Problems - PowerPoint Presentation for Commissioners' meeting. October 28, 2008.

⁷⁹ Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from www.firedepartmentsofenfield.org

All five of Enfield's fire districts levy a property tax, which is collected by the Town of Enfield for each individual district. These taxes fund the districts' operating budgets each fiscal year. In 2008-2009, the mill rates were as follows:

Table 32 Town of Enfield Fire District Tax Levies	
Fire District	Mil Rate
Enfield Fire District #1	2.35 mils
Thompsonville Fire District # 2	5.15 mils
Hazardville Fire District #3	1.75 mils
North Thompsonville Fire District #4	2.40 mils
Shaker Pines Fire District #5	1.10 mils
Source: http://www.enfield-ct.gov/filestorage/91/803/121/Tax_Collector_Town_of_Enfield.pdf	

Law Enforcement

The Prison/Town Liaison Committee was established in 1990 by Resolution 9471. Its purpose is to provide a formal means of communication between town residents, town officials and prison officials regarding prison operations in Enfield. The committee can have a minimum of 9 members, including the Town Manager, the Police Chief, and 3 council liaisons, and a maximum of 13 residents. The committee meets four times a year and as necessary.

The Town of Enfield Police Department received \$69,000 in federal stimulus money in early April 2009. The money will be used to put 4 police officers on evening foot patrol in Thompsonville. The department believes it can effectively prevent crime by having a greater presence in the community to discourage criminals from thinking they can get away with crime. Patrol will take place from the Lamagna Center and cover North Main Street and Windsor Court, and south from the center to Franklin Avenue. Portion of that grant will be used for narcotics suppression throughout town. The funds are expected to last up to 2 years.

Correctional Institutions

There are three correctional facilities in the Town of Enfield, all operated by the State of Connecticut and situated in the industrial area along Moody and Taylor Roads. Oldest prison, Enfield Correctional Institution, was built in the 1960s in an area that was predominantly farmland. This enabled inmates to work in the farms as part of their sentence. Today, community service is a major component of the activities coordinated at all three correctional institutions in Enfield:

- **Enfield CI**, known as the Osborn Prison Farm until 1986, is focused on substance abuse rehabilitation, vocational instruction and education, including parenting skills. The facility also manages a unique outreach program in which prisoners help at-risk youths understand the impact criminal activities have had on their lives and what prison life is really like.
- **Willard-Cybulski CI** prepares inmates for release into the community by allowing them to gain skills through community service activities. This facility also accommodates inmates with significant healthcare needs.
- **Carl Robinson CI** offers intensive substance abuse treatment, community service opportunities, and full vocational training programs through Asnuntuck Community College. This facility occupies 1,700 acres that were the site of a historic Shaker community.

Current amount of staff and inmates in each facility are listed in Table 33.

Table 33 Table State of Connecticut Correctional Department in 2009

Facility	Address	Total Inmate Population	Percent of State Prison Population (%)	Staff	Description
Enfield CI	289 Shaker Rd.	724	3.81	223	Level 3 / Medium Security
Carl Robinson CI	285 Shaker Rd.	1,547	8.15	311	Level 3 / Medium Security
Willard-Cybulski CI	391 Shaker Rd.	1,157	6.09	217	Level 2 / Low Security
State's Total Prison Population		18,978			
Source: Connecticut Department of Corrections. Retrieved on August 3, 2009 from: http://www.ct.gov/doc/cwp/view.asp?a=1502&Q=265422&docNav= 					

In addition to these three facilities, the State of Connecticut may refer inmates approaching their release to the **Enfield Alternative Incarceration Center** on 9 Moody Road. This facility is managed by Community Renewal Team, Inc., a private company. It offers rehabilitation services, employment assistance, life skills development, and referrals to other community services.⁸⁰ Another private company, Families in Crisis, Inc., offers transportation services to the correctional facilities for family members and friends of inmates. Service area includes Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury.

Educational Resources

Public Schools

89.7% of Enfield's school aged children attended Enfield public schools in 2007. Student to pupil enrollment ratio was 22:1 in 1999. Table 34 shows the historical patterns of enrollment in the Enfield Public Schools District.

Table 34 Total enrollment in Enfield Public Schools District from 1998-2008

Year	Grade Level			Total Enrollment
	PK – 6	7 – 8	9 – 12	
1998-99	3,581	1,115	2,085	6,873
2000-01	3,467	1,028	2,182	6,771
2005-06	3,270	1,021	2,145	6,618
2008-09	3,111	923	2,075	6,296
Source: Prowda, Peter M. Enfield Public Schools Enrollment Projected to 2018. Dec. 22, 2008.				

⁸⁰ State of Connecticut Department of Corrections. Programs and Services. Retrieved on August 3, 2009 from <http://www.ct.gov/doc/cwp/view.asp?a=1492&q=265596>

School Enrollment Projections

The elementary enrollment will continue to decline but at a slower rate than current decline rates. The elementary school enrollment is projected to stop declining by 2017 (5.8% decline from 2008 to 2017). In contrast, the middle school population is expected to peak by 2011. From that point on until 2018, middle school enrollment is expected to decline by 10.8%. High school enrollment will continue to decline, with the expectation that it will be 16.1% lower than in 2008.

Table 35 Projected enrollment in Enfield School District from 2009-2018

Year	Grade Level			Total Enrollment
	PK – 6	7 – 8	9 – 12	
2009-2010	3,130	876	1,999	6,192
2011-2012	3,034	921	1,849	5,991
2015-2016	2,931	848	1,812	5,778
2018-2019	2,932	823	1,740	5,682

Source: Prowda, Peter M. Enfield Public Schools Enrollment Projected to 2018.
Dec. 22, 2008.

School District Facilities

Renovations were made in 1990 to increase classroom capacity. The District received \$5 million for capital improvements. As of April 2009, the District has no plans to undertake any capital improvements or expansions in the near future. There is sufficient building capacity in each school to meet current enrollment needs. In fact, the District is considering closing some schools to operate more efficiently and reduce costs. There is concern about the financial limitations imposed by the country's current economic downturn. As funds become available, the District is prioritizing maintenance activities, including bringing certain buildings up to code and upgrading the heating/cooling systems.

Table 36 Enfield Public Schools Facilities

School	Address	Size (Sq. Ft.)
Head Start	1270 Enfield St.	12,869
Edgar H. Parkman Elementary School	165 Weymouth Rd.	60,327
Eli Whitney Elementary School	94 Middle Rd.	58,633
Enfield Street Elementary School	1318 Enfield St.	48,439
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School	117 Post Office Rd.	49,324
Hazardville Memorial Elementary School	68 North Maple St.	54,316
Henry Barnard Elementary School	27 Shaker Rd.	70,182
Nathan Hale Elementary School	5 Taylor Rd.	46,295
Prudence Crandall Elementary School	150 Brainard Rd.	60,417
Thomas G. Alcorn School	1010 Enfield St.	53,950
John F. Kennedy Middle School	155 Raffia Rd.	168,232
Enfield High School	1264 Enfield St.	186,026
Enrico Fermi High School	124 North Maple St.	202,400

Several issues regarding school facilities were raised during a recent School District forum held on Thursday April 2, 2009. The School District was considering reorganizing the use of its public schools due to changes in the Town and School District budgets. This reorganization was considering closing and consolidating several schools, and moving other educational or community programs to the schools that would remain vacant. Residents whose children attend the Alcorn School expressed concern with the implications of closing that school. Residents indicated that the school acts as the neighborhood's community center, and is within safe walking distance for area families. If this school were to be closed and students forced to attend school farther away, parents were concerned that they would not have a means of transportation to pick up their children in case of illness or an emergency if they did not own a car. They were also worried about the high cost of beginning a busing program.

Higher Education

Asnuntuck Community College is a public two-year institution of higher education. Located at 170 Elm Street, the college serves students from East Granby, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Somers, Stafford Springs, Suffield and Windsor Locks. It offers four different educational paths: professional certificates (28 programs), Associate of Arts or Science degrees (19 degrees), options to transfer to a four-year college, and continuing education courses. The college also offers high school students the opportunity to earn college credits before high school graduation.

Asnuntuck Community College offers a variety of transfer opportunities through various articulation and joint admission agreements with public and private colleges and universities in the area. Those students interested in attending one of the Connecticut State Universities (**CCSU, ECSU, SCSU, or WCSU**) can elect to take part in the new Dual Admission Transfer Compact, while those students looking to be future Huskies can opt to take part in the Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP) with the **University of Connecticut**. In either of these agreements, student must choose to apply into these programs in their first 15-16 credits at ACC and will from that point on receive advising on proper course selection to facilitate a smooth transfer process from ACC to the university of their choice. Additionally, ACC has a similar agreement with **American International College** through its joint Admission Agreement. ACC has many program-specific articulation agreements as well which identify ACC courses that are guaranteed to transfer to particular colleges and universities in the admission process. The following is a list of some of the colleges and universities (in addition to those mentioned) in which ACC has specific agreements in place:

- Albertus Magnus College-New Dimensions Program: Business Management
- Bay Path College: Liberal Arts, Early Childhood
- Central Connecticut State University: Criminology, School of Technology, Sociology, Business, Pathway to Teaching Careers
- Charter Oak State College: General Education
- Eastern Connecticut State University: General Education
- Sacred Heart University: Assures admission to associate degree graduates with 2.5 GPA or higher into baccalaureate degree programs at SHU (some professional programs excluded).
- Saint Joseph College, General Education to B.A. program
- Southern Connecticut State University: General Education, Business, Social work
- Post University: Accounting, Business, Liberal Arts/Fine Arts, General Studies, Human Services

- University of Connecticut - Tri-Campus: Business & Technology

In 2008, enrollment in credit programs was approximately 1,790, while enrollment in non-credit programs was 1,774. Most of these students are residents of the Town of Enfield. There are 25 full-time faculty and 96 part-time faculty.⁸¹ Spring 2009 data indicate that total enrollment is currently at 1,748. Ninety-three percent of students are Connecticut residents, while seven percent of students come from the State of Massachusetts. About eighty-one percent of the students from Connecticut were residents of the surrounding towns.

College facilities include a library, computer lab, manufacturing technology workshops, child care center, gymnasiums and athletic fields. The college has recently made improvements to the campus grounds. Construction focused on traffic circulation improvements, with work on walkway and parking redesign and repaving. The college's online capabilities include access to library resources, distance learning, tutoring, academic and financial transactions, and college radio. There is also an online employment service that connects students to alumni and employers. For details on the economic impact of Asnuntuck Community College, please refer to the Economic Vitality chapter.

Funding comes from the US Department of Education, the State of Connecticut, and tuition and fees. Additional support for student scholarships and special projects is available thanks to private contributions to the Asnuntuck Community College Foundation.

Asnuntuck Community College has developed a series of system priorities and institutional goals. Those that are relevant to this planning process are:

- Ensuring an attractive, safe, secure, and inclusive Campus Environment
- Ensure that students are engaged in distinctive curricular and co-curricular activities
- Meet the evolving needs of the community, region and business and industry partners

Public Libraries

The Enfield Public Library provides an extensive array of services to the community. The library is a major component of the educational programs in the town providing services for teachers and students, including librarian visits, reading suggestions, reference assistance, materials for curriculum support, lesson planning materials, and multimedia resources. There is an early literacy program for families with children ages preschool to intermediate elementary; story-time activities; and events related to national and state reading efforts such as "Connecticut Loves to Read" and "Read Across America". The library also provides programming for adults, including facilitated book discussions, "Meet the Author" events, lectures and movie screenings. The library offers a home delivery service to residents of Enfield who are certified by a physician or healthcare provider to be homebound, and to residents of convalescent homes and assisted living communities. The library provides access to online resources for career development; company profiles, industry reports and rankings; news, magazine and specialized journal articles. Resources from the Connecticut Digital Library are accessible through the Enfield Public Library. The library's "Techno Topics" courses and tutorials increase computer and internet literacy. In addition, the Enfield Public Library functions as a gateway to other cultural and recreational venues throughout the region. Friends of the Enfield Public Library offers a museum pass collection that enables the public to visit a variety of museums throughout the state at reduced rates. There are 34 computer terminals for public use. The collection consists of over 125,000 books and more than 15,000 audiovisual items.

⁸¹ College at a Glance. Retrieved on May 5, 2009 from: <http://www.acc.commnet.edu/ir/FactBook.htm>

The Pearl Street Branch, which functioned as the main library until 1968, is an original Carnegie Library opened in 1914. The Branch is more than just an architectural gem in the town; the Branch serves the Thompsonville section offering most of the same services as the Central Library including eight public computer terminals connected to the Internet. The Pearl Street Branch has shown amazing increases of 140.9% in circulation and an attendance increase of 400.9% over the last nine years.

In February of 2008 the library assumed operations of the town television channel, E-TV. The channel operates 24/7/365 providing bulletin board information and between 10 to 15 hours of programming each day.

Library Level of Service

The Central library is open weekdays from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Pearl Street Branch is open Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Fridays 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Table 37 Enfield Public Library Statistics

Year	Service Area Population	Visits	Cardholders	Program Attendance	Circulation
1999-2000	45,212	225,891	14,004	7,552	216,624
2008-2009	45,011	276,800	16,180	12,850	383,243
Percent Increase	-	22.5%	15%	70.2%	76.9%
Source: A Statistical Profile of Connecticut's Public Libraries. July 1999 - June 2000, and July 2008 - June 2009; Enfield Public Library Statistics 2000-2009.					

Table 37 shows that while the population in the service area is essentially the same, visits to the Enfield Public Library have increased by 22.5% over the last eight years. The amount of residents with a library card has increased by 15% during the same period. Program attendance has surged by 70.2%. Additionally, circulation of materials has risen a remarkable 76.9% since 1999-2000. The library system has not had any major construction since 1968. To maximize library use, the facilities have to be rearranged on a regular basis in order to maintain services within the limited space. The number of staff has also remained essentially the same since 1968.

Table 38 shows a comparison of square footage per capita, FTE's per 1,000 served and operating expenditures per capita relative to the surrounding towns and Connecticut towns of comparable size. The library falls at the bottom of square footage per capita, second to the bottom for FTE's per 1,000 served and near to bottom for operating expenditures per capita.

Table 38 Comparison of Library Space Capacity

Town	Population of Service Area 2007	Square Feet per Capita Served	Total FTE's per 1000 of Population Served	Operating Expenditures per Capita
East Windsor	10,617	1.08	0.54	\$34.72
Ellington	14,426	1.94	0.61	\$38.51
Enfield	45,011	0.49	0.47	\$37.30
Groton	42,324	0.87	0.68	\$51.21
Somers	10,850	0.92	0.53	\$39.29
Stratford	49,015	0.72	0.63	\$57.55
Suffield	15,104	0.95	0.46	\$33.59
Wallingford	44,679	1.52	0.69	\$53.23
Windsor	28,754	1.29	0.66	\$51.44
Windsor Locks	12,491	1.01	0.50	\$36.50
Source: A Statistical Profile of Connecticut's Public Libraries, July 2007 - June 2008				

Funding & Issues

The library system is a department of the town and, as such, is administered, through the Library Director, by the Town Manager and Town Council. The town Finance Department handles all aspects of the purchasing and accounts payable functions, and the Public Works Departments maintains the buildings and grounds. The Library Board of Trustees oversees the library's grants and gift funds.

In 2005, the library received an LSTA Grant to conduct a Long Range Planning Study. This effort created a Long Range Planning Committee of 15 active community members. A consultant was hired to conduct meetings with the public and obtain feedback about facilities and services. The study revealed that Enfield residents have a high level of satisfaction with library services and facilities. The main issues were increasing limited space for meetings and community activities, additional space for collections, marketing to the business community and increasing accessibility of library services to homebound patrons and cultural groups. There were also issues with the building's adaptability to requirements of wireless communications.

As shown in the above tables, while usage is soaring the library struggles with a building that is over 40 years old and less than half the size of most libraries in comparable towns. Operating funds are on the lower side of comparable and surrounding towns and staffing levels are just a fraction of these other libraries. Indeed, staffing is less than three quarters of that of the Town of Windsor, a town Enfield likes to compare itself to. Square footage per capita is a half to a quarter of the space in other comparable libraries.

Health and Wellness

Planning and design can impact two factors affecting human health: environmental conditions and access to healthcare. In fact, some of the key arguments in favor of concepts such as smart growth, walkable communities, complete streets, and sustainable development are based on their positive contributions to individual and community health. The healthcare establishment is also increasingly becoming aware of the need to address “familial and social relationships; housing, neighborhood, environmental, and occupational conditions; societal expressions of discrimination and opportunity; and access to and quality of health care settings and personnel” in addition to “individual constitutional and lifestyle factors.”⁸²

This section of the community facilities chapter identifies public health and social services facilities within the Town of Enfield, and major private health and social service facilities. This information will help to determine whether Enfield residents are well served by existing public health and social service facilities.

Healthcare Facilities

The **North Central District Health Department** has offices at 31 N. Main St. The Department enforces regulations and educates the public about environmental health, community health and nutrition, food protection and emergency readiness. It reviews epidemiological studies, conducts inspections of regulated facilities and operations, laboratory testing, child vaccinations, and plans for bio-terrorism threats. The Board of Directors consists of members from eight municipalities. Enfield has 5 representatives.

There are no major hospitals in the Town of Enfield. Park View Specialty Hospital, Baystate Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center are located in Springfield, MA approximately 10 miles from Enfield. Johnson Memorial Hospital is located in Stafford Springs, about 12 miles away in neighboring Tolland County.

Johnson Health Network- manages several healthcare facilities in Enfield. The services offered in Enfield include cancer care, cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation, diagnostic imaging, laboratory medicine and pathology, mental health, physical rehabilitation, and same day surgery. Johnson Health Network’s facilities in Enfield are listed below:

- Home & Community Health Services - 101 Phoenix Ave.
- Phoenix Community Cancer Care - 142 Hazard Ave.
- Johnson Professional Associates, P.C. - 151 Hazard Ave.
 - Enfield Women’s Health
 - Behavioral Health Services



Figure 34 North Central Health District Offices on North Main Street in Thompsonville.

⁸² The Connecticut Health Disparities Project, Connecticut Department of Public Health. Issue Brief - Defining Health Disparities. Summer 2007.

- Sleep Center
- Johnson Surgery Center of Enfield - 148 Hazard Ave.
- Johnson Memorial Wellness Center - 3 Weymouth Rd. They are the only providers of physical therapy and athletic training for the Enfield Public Schools.

Other healthcare providers in the Town of Enfield are varied and listed below:

- **Mary Lou Strom Primary Care Center**- 5 North Main St. - a non-profit provider of primary care and social services affiliated to Community Health Center, Inc. As a federally qualified health center, the center offers services for persons who are uninsured, homeless or victims of domestic violence. Dental and translation/interpreter services are also available.
- **Caring Solutions Home Health Care**- 5600 Bigelow Commons – In-home services for infants and adults. Also offers transportation services.
- **Comfort Keepers**- 585 Hazard Ave. – In-home care for elderly persons.
- **Blair Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Services**- 612 Hazard Ave. – Short and long-term physical, occupational and speech therapy services, and hospice care.
- **Parkway Pavilion Healthcare**- 1157 Enfield St. – Short and long-term rehabilitation care. Accommodations for 140 residents.
- **Naturopathic Health Care**- 115 Elm St. – Naturopathic medical office.
- **American Home Care**- 31 Moody Rd. – Specialized services for individuals with bleeding disorders. Services include medication delivery and caregiver education.
- **Enfield Dialysis Center**- 113 Elm St. – Social and medical services for individuals with renal problems. A subsidiary of Fresenius Medical Care.
- **Joshua Center**- 72 Shaker Rd. – A subsidiary of Natchaug Hospital providing partial hospital and intensive outpatient day treatment programs for children, teens and adults with mental illness and substance abuse problems. The Hospital also conducts special education services and evaluations for the juvenile justice system.
- **Able Care Pharmacy & Medical**- 15 Palomba Dr. – Pharmaceutical and medical supplies

Health Disparities

The State of Connecticut defines health disparities as avoidable differences in health that result from cumulative social disadvantages. The Connecticut Department of Health has determined that there are “documented health disparities for the Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American populations relative to the White population in Connecticut”. The Department further explains that research has shown that “immigrants, refugees, limited English proficiency populations, and homeless persons...tend to have limited access to health care and/or adverse health outcomes relative to the majority population.”⁸³

One of the Connecticut Health Department’s efforts to ensure everyone has adequate access to healthcare is working with the US Department of Health and Human Services to identify communities that do not have an adequate proportion of medical staff, facilities or services.

⁸³ The Connecticut Health Disparities Project, Connecticut Department of Public Health. Issue Brief - Defining Health Disparities. Summer 2007.

Hartford County has a total of 23 communities that are designated as medically underserved areas by the federal government. The Town of Enfield is one of those communities; it is specifically designated as a Healthcare Professional Shortage Area for primary care for the low income population. The report also indicates that there are no public community health centers in Enfield.⁸⁴ Designation as a medically underserved area qualifies the Town for state and federal funding for healthcare needs.⁸⁵

Social Services

The Town of Enfield Department of Social Services has eight divisions:

- **Dial-A-Ride** - Enfield participates in Greater Hartford's Transit District (GHTD) Dial-A-Ride Municipal Grant Collaboration program.
- **Congregate Living Meals Program** – is located at 1 Beech Rd and provides hot lunch for seniors on weekends and holidays.
- **Adult Day Center** – is located at 1A Beech Rd. The center offers medical, exercise, entertainment and meal services. Field trips are arranged for clients and there are also caregiver support groups. The Center charges a fee for its services; fees charged are based on a “sliding scale”.
- **Enfield Child Development Center** – has two locations, 132 South Rd. and at the Family Resources Center at 110 High St. The facility at 132 South Rd. is 14,000 sq. ft. The facility has programs for children 8 weeks to 12 years old, including child care, educational, arts and other activities, and help with homework. Children's multicultural background is incorporated into each of the programs. In 2008, the Center served 225 children.
- **Youth Services/Youth Center** – is located at 19 North Main St. and serves youth ages 0 to 18 years who are enrolled in school. The Youth Center provides individual and group counseling, parenting and workplace training, and support for alternative education.
- **Family Resources Center** – is located at 1010 Enfield St. within the Thomas Alcorn Public School. The Center is a school-based family support and child care program offering child care, preschool, home visits for parents with infants and toddlers, youth development activities, teenage pregnancy prevention, adult education and literacy. The Center also helps with networking and outreach to other day care providers and referrals to other public services.
- **Neighborhood Services** – is located at 786 F Enfield St. and functions as a “one-stop shop” for information about state and federal programs. Neighborhood Services also provides assistance with housing relocation, energy and utilities, and neglect, abuse or exploitation of elderly persons. Other crisis and family programs are offered, including staff visits to homes and senior housing.
- **Senior Center** – is located at 199 Elm St. The Enfield Senior Center is nationally accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers, a constituent of the National Council on Aging. The senior center offers mature Enfield residents the opportunity to enjoy a vast array of activities to stay healthy and connected to the community. Many health services, information and referral, a noon meal, Medicare, Social Security and tax

⁸⁴ Federal Shortage Designation Information, CT Towns. Retrieved on April 30, 2009 from: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3132&q=388118>

⁸⁵ Connecticut Department of Public Health. Health Care for Connecticut's Underserved Population. Jan. 2007.

assistance are provided in addition to classes in the creative arts, day trips and excursions, fitness programs and computer training. The Enfield Senior Center houses a fitness center staffed by skilled professionals who design a fitness program tailored to the needs of each individual member. Programs, classes, and events serve a wide range of ages, interests and abilities.⁸⁶

The Town of Enfield Department of Social Services created a Strategic Plan that outlines the agency's tasks over a period of three years. Some of tasks that are relevant to this planning process are:

- Expand adult day care services to out-of-town residents
- Strengthen programs for families and youth that are offered in neighborhood settings
- Understand the extent and root causes of homelessness in Enfield
- Improve transportation services available for seniors and persons with disabilities by following the Independent Transportation Network America model and working with other towns in North Central Connecticut
- Improve access to information about social services offered by the Town and other organizations
- Improve collaboration with other Town, state and federal government agencies, particularly to apply for and secure grant funding
- Assist North Central Health District to create an affordable health clinic in Enfield
- Create alternative fundraising strategies to supplement taxpayer dollars

Some of the issues confronted by this agency include:

- **Additional building space** – The Enfield Department of Social Services indicated that it needs a space of 14,000 -15,000 square feet for a child development center. Dept. staff explains that a new facility is needed because the existing building is aging, and because a town-owned facility would help them avoid leasing costs. Additional space is also needed for the Youth Center and Youth Services Counseling program, and the Adult Day Center. The Adult Day Center needs an additional 5,000 - 7,000 square feet. There is the possibility that the Center will have to be relocated in two to four years because the Department has only been able to secure 2 year leases from the landlord.
- **Access to affordable transportation for seniors and people earning low-incomes** - Improving access to affordable transportation for seniors and disabled individuals was one of the top goals of the plan, as identified by community members, social services program participants, community leaders and social services staff members who participated in the planning process.
- **Funding** – Enfield Social Services Department expects to lose state funding for some of its programs, and to rely increasingly on other sources of funding. As economic conditions in the community worsen, the Department finds that having fewer resources to assist Town residents with loss of jobs and housing, etc. is its most pressing challenge.

Other agencies that provide critical social services in the Town of Enfield are:

⁸⁶ Susan Lather, Senior Center Director. Comment received November 2009.

- **Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD)** administers grants on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration, and it offers paratransit services under contract to the Connecticut Department of Transportation.⁸⁷
- **Allied Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.** also offers paratransit services in Enfield.
- **Enfield Emergency Food Shelf** – is a non-profit volunteer organization located at 96 Alden Ave. Affiliated to the Enfield Conference of Christian Churches, it provides food to families and individuals who apply and qualify for their services. As of last April, 1,154 individuals have been served in 2009.
- **Loaves and Fishes** – is a local soup kitchen located at 28 Prospect St.
- **Mobile Foodshare** – is located at 64 Pearl St. and provides food to anyone who brings a shopping bag.
- **Enfield Recovery House** – located at 36 Pleasant St. the Enfield Recovery House offers support and transitional housing for men.
- **Network Against Domestic Abuse of North Central Connecticut** – 139 Hazard Ave. Provides shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence
- **North Central Counseling Services** – is located at 47 Palomba Drive. A subsidiary of Community Health Resources, it provides counseling, respite and in-home services, partial hospitalization and housing assistance.
- **New Directions of North Central Connecticut** – 113 Elm St. Services provided include individual and group counseling, school-based intervention and community education programs regarding substance abuse and mental health problems.

⁸⁷ Retrieved on April 8, 2009 from: <http://www.hartfordtransit.org/orginfo.html>

Findings

- According to the community survey conducted throughout this planning process, town residents are satisfied with the quality of services of police and fire departments in Enfield, and that they feel safe within their community.
- The Enfield Public Library is in need of the town's attention. While demand is high, the staff struggles with inadequate facilities, staffing and funding. In order for the library system to function as the economic, educational and recreational center it can, and should be, the town will need to bring a proper investment to it.
- Enfield Public School District has sufficient building capacity at the present to accommodate its student population. Building capacity may increase in the future if population continues to decline as expected in population projections. For this reason and due to the uncertainties of national economic conditions, the School District is carefully considering reorganization of the use of its facilities and the cost of capital improvement projects that may be needed in the future.
- Many of the Town's educational and social services facilities are located within the neighborhoods they serve. They also often share the same building space. As programs continue to expand, sharing building space is presenting certain space constraints. Many organizations are expressing a desire to move into their own building in order to increase office and program space, eliminate scheduling conflicts, leasing costs and other problems with leasing. However, being within the neighborhoods they serve and sharing building space are assets because they facilitate resident's access to public services; promote a healthy, active lifestyle; can reduce building costs and maintenance; and promote interagency collaboration.
- The strategic plan of the Enfield Social Services Department suggests that there is a need to work with neighboring towns. Working in partnership can offer cost-savings, as well as a larger customer base that can support the services. The opportunity to expand services to neighboring towns also underscores Enfield's role within the region as a center, not just of retail shopping, but also of vital support services for young working families and a growing elderly population.

Legend

Fire District

- Enfield
- Hazardville
- North Thompsonville
- Shaker Pines
- Thompsonville



Police Department



Library



Fire Department



EMS



Asnuntuck Community College



Public School



Enfield Town Hall



Roads



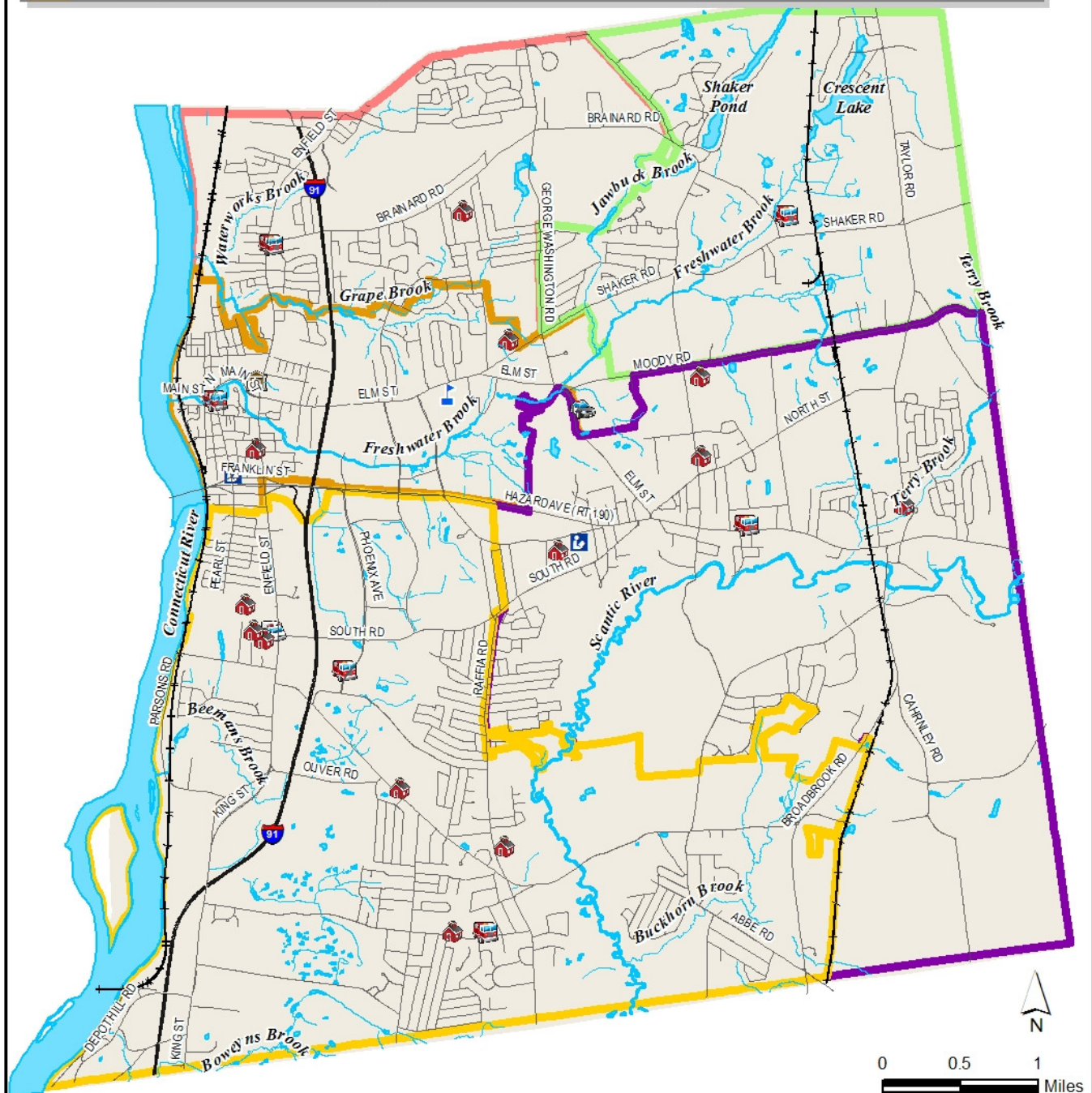
Railroad



Surface Water



Town Boundary



Community Facilities and Services

Plan of Conservation & Development - Town of Enfield, CT

DESIGN based
PLANNING, INC.
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